

safety risk and is our primary reason for advocating the SAFE Banking Act. Additionally, financial institutions that provide banking services to state-legal marijuana businesses are currently subject to criminal prosecution for “aiding and abetting” a federal crime and money laundering allegations due to the Controlled Substances Act. Banking services such as accepting credit card payments, depositing revenues, and writing checks to pay employees, vendors and taxes are needed by licensed and regulated cannabis businesses that are now cut off from such banking services.

The SAFE Banking Act creates the ability to access the banking system and make our communities safer. The bill removes violations of money laundering laws for any proceeds derived from state-legal marijuana businesses. The result is to get cash off the streets and into the financial system which is built to identify and block or report fraud and illicit activity. This bill also contains needed protections for hemp and hemp-derived CBD related businesses, which still struggle in accessing financial services despite the legalization of hemp in the 2018 Farm Bill.

The Colorado Bankers Association is pleased to support this needed change in federal law. Please contact us with any questions.

DON A. CHILDEARS,
Chief Executive Officer,
Colorado Bankers Association.

CUNA,
March 18, 2021.

Hon. ED PERLMUTTER,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. STEVE STIVERS,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. WARREN DAVIDSON,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES PERLMUTTER, STIVERS, VELÁZQUEZ, AND DAVIDSON: On behalf of America's credit unions, I am writing in support of the Secure and Fair Enforcement (SAFE) Banking Act of 2021, which would permit credit unions in states where marijuana is legal to safely serve their members' related needs. The Credit Union National Association (CUNA) represents America's credit unions and their more than 120 million members.

Credit unions exist to serve the financial services needs of their members, but the disparate treatment of production, distribution, sale and use of cannabis under federal law and some state laws has discouraged them from providing services to businesses throughout the supply chain in states where cannabis is legal. In recent years, as various states have legalized cannabis for medicinal and recreational use, participants in the market have sought out credit unions to provide safe and affordable financial services. In recent years, 36 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands have approved medical marijuana and cannabis programs.

CUNA takes no position on legalizing or decriminalizing medicinal or recreational cannabis at either the state or federal level. However, credit unions operating in states where it is legal have members and member businesses involved in the cannabis market who need access to traditional depository and lending services, the absence of which creates a significant public safety issue. A 2015 analysis found that, in the absence of being banked, one in every two cannabis

dispensaries were robbed or burglarized—with the average thief walking away with anywhere from \$20,000 to \$50,000 in a single theft.

Additionally, even financial institutions that choose not to bank the cannabis industry still risk unknowingly serving those businesses in states where cannabis is legal. Indirect connections are often difficult to identify and avoid because like any other industry, those offering cannabis-related services work with vendors and suppliers. These are Main Street businesses like the printing company that makes a business card, the landlord that rents office space, and even the utility company that provides water or electricity. Under the existing status quo, a credit union that does business with any one of these indirectly affiliated entities could unknowingly risk violating federal law.

The SAFE Banking Act of 2021 would offer narrowly targeted federal protections for credit unions and other financial institutions accepting deposits, extending credit, or providing payment services to an individual or business engaged in cannabis related commerce in states where such activity is legal with a safe harbor, so long as they are compliant with all other applicable laws and regulations. Furthermore, the SAFE Banking Act provides safe harbor to credit unions and their employees who are not aware if their members or customers are involved in this business.

Many credit unions operate in states where their voters or legislatures have made cannabis legal in one form or another. Therefore, CUNA believes that financial institutions should be permitted to lawfully serve businesses that engage in activities authorized under their state laws, even when such activity may be inconsistent with federal law.

For that reason, CUNA has long supported the SAFE Banking Act and we look forward to working with you to advance this legislation into law. On behalf of America's credit unions, thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

JIM NUSSLE,
President & CEO.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, due to a personal matter, I could not make votes on Thursday, April 15th, and Friday, April 16th. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 109; YEA on Roll Call No. 110; YEA on Roll Call No. 111; YEA on Roll Call No. 112; YEA on Roll Call No. 113; YEA on Roll Call No. 114; YEA on Roll Call No. 115; YEA on Roll Call No. 116; YEA on Roll Call No. 117; NAY on Roll Call No. 118; and YEA on Roll Call No. 119.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF RICHARD ERICKSON

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Mr. KELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Richard Erickson, who

passed away on February 21, 2021. He was a true servant to his family, community, and country and he will be deeply missed.

“Dick” Erickson was born on March 8, 1952 to Leslie and Alida Erickson in Preston, Minnesota. He attended Elementary School at Highland Country School, and at the age of 12 he left home to work for a local farmer. He later attended high school in Lanesboro, Minnesota. At age 17, Dick enlisted in the United States Navy. He served in the Vietnam War aboard the USS Newport News.

After returning, Dick began his 38 year career in law enforcement. He attended the Rio Hondo Police Academy in Whittier, California before joining the police force in Tupelo, Mississippi. He worked as an undercover narcotics officer and became a K-9 officer where he met his new partner, a German Shepard named Akky. The pair served together as Dick headed up the Tupelo Drug Task Force. Dick ended his career as the Chief of Police in Mantachie, MS. As a Mississippian, Dick served in the Army and Mississippi National Guard. In his 8 year career, he earned his combat medic's license and the rank of E6.

Mr. Erickson is survived by his mother, Alida; brother, Larry; sister Mary Brown; nine children; and thirteen grandchildren.

Dick Erickson was a dedicated community servant and a beloved father, brother, and leader. I am grateful for his service to state and country and join countless others in mourning his loss.

IN HONOR OF THE SERVICE OF COLONEL CHRIS A. MCKINNEY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel Chris A. McKinney, the outgoing Commander of the 177 Military Police Brigade. A key figure in protecting our Capitol, his service to our community and to our nation are worthy of commendation.

Colonel McKinney's military and federal civilian service spans over three decades. He began his service as a Second Lieutenant and was selected for the Corps of Engineers in 1993. He served as an Engineer Platoon Leader, and as Executive Officer and Company Commander for C Co. 1/151st Infantry. He also served assignments in Aviation, the Judge Advocate General Corps and the Military Police Corps, as well as in the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Department of Homeland Security. Deployed in combat to Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom and to Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom, he served as a member of the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force. Colonel McKinney has earned numerous awards and decorations for his service across the country and globe, including the Legion of Merit and Bronze Star Medal.

During Colonel McKinney's tenure he led the Tiger Brigade in their response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This included setting up acute care facilities and leading testing programs in Michigan's prisons and long-term care facilities. Colonel McKinney and his team responded to the historic Midland Flooding, conducted the first ever MI Quick Reaction